

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
16 May 2002 (16.05.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 02/38161 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **A61K 33/34**

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/46344

(22) International Filing Date:  
8 November 2001 (08.11.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/246,870 8 November 2000 (08.11.2000) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):  
**BIO-CONCEPT LABORATORIES** [US/US]; Suite  
101, 4 Tinkham Avenue, Derry, NH 03038 (US).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **SMITH, Francis,**  
**Xavier** [US/US]; 22 Fox Run Lane, Salem, NH 03079  
(US).

(74) Agent: **BLANK, Christopher, E.**; Jaeckle Fleischmann  
& Mugel, LLP, 39 State Street, Rochester, NY 14614-1310  
(US).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: IMPROVED OPHTHALMIC AND CONTACT LENS SOLUTIONS CONTAINING SIMPLE SACCHARIDES AS PRESERVATIVE ENHANCERS

(57) Abstract: A contact lens solution comprising 0.0001 to 10 weight percent or a preservative enhancer chosen from the group consisting of: inositol; mannitol; sorbitol; sucrose; dextrose; glycerin and propylene glycol; and at least 0.0001 weight percent of a cationic polymeric preservative, and where the concentration of chloride in said solution is less than 0.2 percent by weight.

WO 02/38161 A1

IMPROVED OPHTHALMIC AND CONTACT LENS SOLUTIONS CONTAINING SIMPLE SACCHARIDES AS PRESERVATIVE ENHANCERS

### **Cross-Reference to Related Applications**

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/246,870, filed November 8, 2000.

### **Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to the field of ophthalmic solutions and their uses. In particular the invention relates to contact lens cleaning solutions, contact lens rinsing and storing solutions, solutions to deliver active pharmaceutical agents to the eye, solutions for disinfecting ophthalmic devices and the like.

### **Background**

The present invention relates to the field of ophthalmic solutions and especially to the aspects of preservative efficacy and comfort after prolonged use. These ophthalmic solutions have been used for some period of time and are available as over the counter products. Solutions that are used in direct contact with corneal tissue such as the delivery of active pharmaceutical agent to the eye, or indirectly, such as the cleaning, conditioning or storage of devices that will come in contact with corneal tissue, such as contact lenses, there is a need to insure that these solution do not introduce sources of bacterial or other microbial infection. Thus preservatives are included to reduce the viability of microbes in the solution and to lessen the chance of contamination of the solution by the user since many of the solutions are bought, opened, used, sealed and then reused.

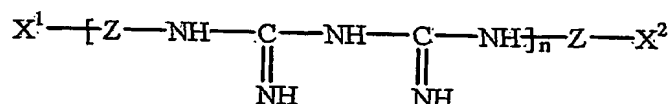
State of the art preservative agents include polyhexamethylene biguanide (phmb), polyquad<sup>™</sup>, chlorhexidine, and benzalkonium chloride, and the like, all of which at some concentration irritate corneal tissue and lead to user discomfort. Therefore, a solution that employs a given amount of a preservative agent, but which is made more effective by addition of an agent that is not a preservative agent would be desired.

## Summary of the Invention

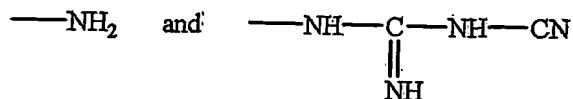
The present invention relates to improved ophthalmic solutions that employ inositol in order to more effectively preserve solutions and to reduce the degree to which cationic preservatives will deposit on contact lenses. Ophthalmic solutions are here understood to include contact lens treatment solutions, such as cleaners, soaking solutions, conditioning solutions and lens storage solutions, as well as wetting solutions and in-eye solutions for treatment of eye conditions.

The solutions specifically described herein have 0.001 to about 1 percent of inositol in combination with other active ingredients useful in ophthalmic solutions such as buffers, preservatives, surfactants, and antimicrobial agents, and with a low chloride concentration, less than about 0.2 percent by weight. It has been found, surprisingly that inositol, and other sugars including mannitol, sorbitol, sucrose, dextrose, glycerin and propylene glycol, effectively increase the antibacterial effect of preservatives in low salt (low chloride) conditions.

The preservatives that are specifically useful are cationic polymeric preservatives such as polyhexamethylene biguanide (phmb), polyquad<sup>tm</sup>, chlorhexidine, and benzalkonium chloride, as well as other cationic preservatives that may prove useful in the present invention as well. The cationic preservatives are used at effective amounts as preservatives, and in the instance of PHMB from 0.0001 percent by weight to higher levels of about 0.01 weight percent. Specifically, The cationic polymeric preservative includes polymeric biguanides such as polymeric hexamethylene biguanides (PHMB), and combinations thereof. Such cationic polymeric biguanides, and water-soluble salts thereof, having the following formula:



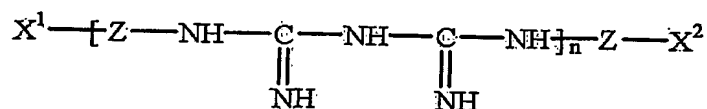
wherein Z is an organic divalent bridging group which may be the same or different throughout the polymer, n is on average at least 3, preferably on average 5 to 20, and X<sup>1</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> are



One preferred group of water-soluble polymeric biguanides will have number average molecular weights of at least 1,000 and more preferably will have number average molecular weights from 1,000 to 50,000. Suitable water-soluble salts of the free bases include, but are not limited to hydrochloride, borate, acetate, gluconate, sulfonate, tartrate and citrate salts.

The above-disclosed biguanides and methods of preparation are described in the literature. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 3,428,576 describes the preparation of polymeric biguanides from a diamine and salts thereof and a diamine salt of dicyanimide.

Most preferred are the polymeric hexamethylene biguanides, commercially available, for example, as the hydrochloride salt from Zeneca (Wilmington, Del.) under the trademark Cosmocil™ CQ. Such polymers and water-soluble salts are referred to as polyhexamethylene (PHMB) or polyaminoptopyl biguanide (PAPB). The term polyhexamethylene biguanide, as used herein, is meant to encompass one or more biguanides have the following formula:



wherein Z, X<sup>1</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> are as defined above and n is from 1 to 500.

Depending on the manner in which the biguanides are prepared, the predominant compound falling within the above formula may have different X<sup>1</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> groups or the same groups, with lesser amounts of other compounds within the formula. Such compounds are known and are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,758,595 and British

Patent 1,432,345, which patents are hereby incorporated. Preferably, the water-soluble salts are compounds where  $n$  has an average value of 2 to 15, most preferably 3 to 12.

It was found that an unexpected preservative efficacy was displayed when inositol was used in conjunction with the cationic preservative. The other components of the solution are used at levels known to those skilled in the art in order to improve the wearability of lenses and when used directly in the eye, to provide increased resistance to infection. Inositol used in ophthalmic solutions increases preservative efficacy in certain formulations, provides increased resistance to infection in corneal tissue, in certain formulations, and improves the quality of tears in certain formulations.

The formulations may also include buffers such as phosphates, bicarbonate, citrate, borate, ACES, BES, BICINE, BIS-Tris, BIS-Tris Propane, HEPES, HEPPS, imidazole, MES, MOPS, PIPES, TAPS, TES, and Tricine

Surfactants that might be employed include polysorbate surfactants, polyoxyethylene surfactants, phosphonates, saponins and polyethoxylated castor oils, but preferably the polyethoxylated castor oils. These surfactants are commercially available. The polyethoxylated castor oils are sold by BASF under the trademark Cremaphor.

Inositol, mannitol, sorbitol, sucrose, dextrose, glycerin, propylene glycol and the other agents used in the present invention are all commercially available, and well enough understood to be formulated into products within the scope of the invention by those skilled in the art.

The solutions of the present invention may contain other additives including but not limited to buffers, tonicity agents, demulcents, wetting agents, preservatives, sequestering agents (chelating agents), surface active agents, and enzymes.

Other aspects include adding to the solution from 0.001 to 1 weight percent chelating agent (preferably disodium EDTA) and/or additional microbicide, (preferably 0.00001 to 0.1 or 0.0000 1 to 0.01) weight percent polyhexamethylene biguanide (PHMB0, N-

alkyl-2-pyrrolidone, chlorhexidine, polyquaternium- 1, hexetidine, bronopol, alexidine, low concentrations of hydrogen peroxide, and ophthalmologically acceptable salts thereof

Ophthalmologically acceptable chelating agents useful in the present invention include amino carboxylic acid compounds or water-soluble salts thereof, including ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, nitrilotriacetic acid, diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid, hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid, 1,2-diaminocyclohexanetetraacetic acid, ethylene glycol bis (beta-aminoethyl ether) in N, N, N', N' tetraacetic acid (EGTA), aminodiacetic acid and hydroxyethylamino diacetic acid. These acids can be used in the form of their water soluble salts, particularly their alkali metal salts. Especially preferred chelating agents are the di-, tri- and tetra-sodium salts of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), most preferably disodium EDTA (Disodium Edetate).

Other chelating agents such as citrates and polyphosphates can also be used in the present invention. The citrates which can be used in the present invention include citric acid and its mono-, di-, and tri-alkaline metal salts. The polyphosphates which can be used include pyrophosphates, triphosphates, tetraphosphates, trimetaphosphates, tetrametaphosphates, as well as more highly condensed phosphates in the form of the neutral or acidic alkali metal salts such as the sodium and potassium salts as well as the ammonium salt.

The pH of the solutions should be adjusted to be compatible with the eye and the contact lens, such as between 6.0 to 8.0, preferably between 6.8 to 7.8 or between 7.0 to 7.6. Significant deviations from neutral (pH 7.3) will cause changes in the physical parameters (i.e. diameter) in some contact lenses. Low pH (pH less than 5.5) can cause burning and stinging of the eyes, while very low or very high pH (less than 3.0 or greater than 10) can cause ocular damage.

The additional preservatives employed in the present invention are known, such as polyhexamethylene biguanide, N-alkyl-2-pyrrolidone, chlorhexidine, polyhexamethylenebiguanide, alexidine, polyquaternium- 1, hexetidine, bronopol and a very low concentration of hydrogen peroxide, e.g., 30 to 200 ppm.

The solutions of the invention are compatible with both rigid gas permeable and hydrophilic contact lenses during storage, cleaning, wetting, soaking, rinsing and disinfection.

A typical aqueous solution of the present invention may contain additional ingredients which would not affect the basic and novel characteristics of the active ingredients described earlier, such as tonicity agents, surfactants and viscosity inducing agents, which may aid in either the lens cleaning or in providing lubrication to the eye. Suitable tonicity agents include sodium chloride, potassium chloride, glycerol or mixtures thereof. The tonicity of the solution is typically adjusted to approximately 240-310 milliosmoles per kilogram solution (mOsm/kg) to render the solution compatible with ocular tissue and with hydrophilic contact lenses. In one embodiment, the solution contains 0.01 to 0.2 weight percent sodium chloride. The important factor is to keep the concentrations of such additives to a degree no greater than that would supply a chloride concentration of no greater than about 0.2 mole percent.

Suitable viscosity inducing agents can include lecithin or the cellulose derivatives such as hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose and methylcellulose in amounts similar to those for surfactants, above.

#### EXAMPLE 1

Formulations containing inositol (Spectrum) were prepared in a 0.2% phosphate buffer. The solutions were made isotonic with sodium chloride and preserved with polyhexamethylene biguanide at 0.0001%. The pH was adjusted to 7.2 with either 1 N sodium hydroxide or 1 N hydrochloric acid. The in vitro microbicidal activity of the solutions was determined by exposing *C. albicans* to 10 ml of each solution at room temperature for 4 hours. Subsequently, an aliquot of each solution was serially diluted onto agar plates and incubated for 48 hours at elevated temperatures. At the conclusion of the incubation period the plates are examined for the development of colonies. The log reduction was determined based on a comparison to the inoculum control. The following table provides the results of the in vitro studies.

Additive	4 hour log reduction
Inositol (0.5%)	1.1
Buffer control	0.8

The solution containing inositol showed an improvement in the activity against *C. albicans* as compared to the buffer control.



**EXAMPLE 2****Formulation Preserved Solution for rinsing, storage, reconstituting enzyme tablets**

A formulation was prepared by dissolving Tricine, Allantoin, Inositol, Disodium edetate, and Polyoxyl 40 Hydrogenated Castor Oil in 80% of the water volume. The pH of the solution was adjusted to 7.3 with 1 N sodium hydroxide. The tonicity of the solution was adjusted with sodium chloride and polyhexamethylene biguanide was added. The solution was diluted to volume with water.

Constituent	Supplier	% Weight/ Volume	Amount
Purified water		to 80%	40 mL
Tricine	Spectrum	1.0%	0.500 g
Allantoin	Spectrum	0.25%	0.125 g
Inositol	Spectrum	0.1%	0.050 g
Edetate Disodium	Spectrum	0.055%	0.0275 g
Polyoxyl 40 Hydrogenated Castor Oil	Cremophor ® RH 40 from BASF Co.	0.1%	0.5 mL of 10%
Sodium Hydroxide, 1N		as required for pH adjustment to 7.3	as required for pH adjustment to 7.3
Purified Water		to 98%	Dilute to 49 mL
Sodium Chloride	Fisher	As required for tonicity adjustment 285 mOsm	As required for tonicity adjustment 285 mOsm
Polyhexamethylene- biguanide HCl	20% w/w solution available under the mark Cosmocil CQ from Avecia	0.0001%	50 uL of 0.1%
Purified Water		Balance to 100%	Dilute to 50 mL

This provides an example of a specific formulation of the present invention but does not fully illustrate the bounds or limits of the invention.

### Example 3A. Patent: (Sugars and Glycols with less than 0.1% chloride)

An example of a formulation containing low salt, a buffer and cationic preservative follows:

Log Reduction	Buffer	Preservative	Preservative Enhancer	Wetting Agent
2.27	none	PHMB 0.0001%	none	None
3.85	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	none	Cremophor ®RH 40
4.40	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	propylene glycol 3%	Cremophor ®RH 40
4.40	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	sorbitol 5%	Cremophor ®RH 40
4.40	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	inositol 5%	Cremophor ®RH 40
2.98	Opti-Free® Express			
0.68	Ciba Solo-care®			
2.99	B&L Renu® Multiplus MPS®			

Column 1 shows the reduction of *c. albicans* at 4 hours using a typical antibacterial test. The data shows improved activity over the preservative alone; improved activity over the buffer control without sugar additive and improved activity over commercially available products

### Example 3B. Sugar/Glycol Preservative Efficacy Relationship to Salt Concentration

### Example 3B. Sugar/Glycol Preservative Efficacy Relationship to Salt Concentration

#### Log

Reduction	Buffer	Preservative	Additive
2.53	none	PHMB 0.0001%	none
1.34	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	sodium chloride 0.5%
3.42	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	glycerin 0.5%
2.73	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	propylene glycol 0.5%
1.13	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	potassium chloride 0.5%
3.92	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	sorbitol 0.5%
3.23	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	mannitol 0.5%
3.06	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	inositol 0.5%
3.72	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	dextrose 0.5%

This data shows that the antimicrobial activity of buffer with the sugar or glycol is greater than the preservative alone and that decreased activity at 0.5% sodium chloride or 0.5% potassium chloride solutions occurs as well. Thus the surprising effect of the sugar derived preservative enhancers is displayed and the effects relationship to chloride concentration is demonstrated.

**Example 3C. Solutions with less than 0.1% chloride specifically using glycerin**

Solutions with a cationic polymeric preservative (PHMB) sodium chloride and glycerin and a buffer were made as shown in the following table and the preservative efficacy was measured.

<b>Log</b>			<b>Sodium</b>	
<b>Reduction</b>	<b>Buffer</b>	<b>Preservative</b>	<b>Chloride</b>	<b>Glycerin</b>
1.69	none	PHMB 0.0001%	none	none
1.74	none	PHMB 0.0001%	0.1%	none
1.46	none	PHMB 0.0001%	0.2%	none
0.86	none	PHMB 0.0001%	0.4%	none
0.49	none	PHMB 0.0001%	0.5%	none
2.44	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	none	none
1.89	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	0.1%	none
1.54	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	0.2%	none
0.98	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	0.4%	none
0.89	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	0.5%	none
2.46	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	none	0.20%
2.41	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	none	0.50%

The above data illustrates the effect of sodium chloride on preservative efficacy and the effect of glycerin in improving preservative efficacy in low salt solutions.

**Example 3D. Experiment Showing Preservative Effect Inhibition is Buffer Dependent**

Solutions were made according to methods described supra with sodium phosphate as the buffer.

**Log**

<b>Reduction</b>	<b>Buffer</b>	<b>Preservative</b>	<b>Tonicity Agent</b>
0.79	Sodium Phosphate 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	none
0.33	Sodium Phosphate 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	Sodium Chloride 0.7%

This data illustrates the problem with sodium chloride is independent of buffer type.

**Example 3E. The Lens Conditioning Properties of Saccharide Containing Formulations**

Solutions were formulated with sodium chloride, sorbitol and sucrose and then lenses were immersed in the resultant solutions and chlorhexidine gluconate was added. The lenses were exposed for 3 hours and the amount of the chlorhexidine deposited on the lens was measured.

**Method:** HPLC analysis for chlorhexidine gluconate  
3.0 mL solution exposed to 1/2 lens

**Matrix:** 1 ppm CHG / 0.2% Bis-Tris Propane / 0.1% Cremophor RH 40

**Lens:** Freshlook ColorBlends (45% phemfilcon A, 55% water) Wesley Jes:

Additive	ug CHG per lens	% Decrease
None	4.0	67.3%
Sodium Chloride	3.6	59.3%
Sorbitol	3.0	50.7%
Sucrose	1.3	21.4%

1 ppm CHG Std in water    %RSD through the entire experiment    2.9%

This test shows that the sugars used in the test have an ability to decrease the extent of preservative binding for of cationic preservatives when properly formulated. Both sorbitol and sucrose solutions demonstrated efficacy in reducing preservative deposition.

**Example 3F**

The following experiment demonstrates the effect of chloride concentration on the antimicrobial effectiveness of PHMB preservative solutions.

<b>Log Reduction</b>	<b>Buffer</b>	<b>Preservative</b>	<b>NaCl</b>	<b>Additive</b>	<b>Effect</b>
1.05	Bis-Tris 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	none	none	54%
1.47	Bis-Tris 0.5%	PHMB 0.0001%	none	none	75%
0.77	Bis-Tris 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	0.70%	none	39%
2.39	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	none	none	123%
2.32	Bis-Tris Propane 0.5%	PHMB 0.0001%	none	none	119%
0.91	Bis-Tris Propane 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	0.70%	none	47%
1.27	Tricine 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	none	none	65%
1.31	Tricine 0.5%	PHMB 0.0001%	none	none	67%
0.62	Tricine 0.2%	PHMB 0.0001%	0.70%	none	32%

What is claimed is:

1. A contact lens solution comprising 0.001 to 10 weight percent or a preservative enhancer chosen from the group consisting of: inositol; mannitol; sorbitol; sucrose; dextrose; glycerin and propylene glycol; and at least 0.0001 weight percent of a cationic polymeric preservative, and where the concentration of chloride in said solution is less than 0.2 percent by weight.
2. The contact lens solution of claim 1, wherein the concentration of said cationic polymeric preservative is between 1 and 100 parts per million.
3. The contact lens solution of claim 1, further comprising a physiologically compatible buffer selected from the group consisting of phosphate, bicarbonate, citrate, borate, ACES, BES, BICINE, BIS-Tris, BIS-Tris Propane, HEPES, HEPPS, imidazole, MES, MOPS, PIPES, TAPS, TES, and Tricine.
4. The contact lens solution of claim 1, further comprising between 0.01% and 5.0% glycerin.
5. The contact lens solution of claim 1 further comprising between 0.01% and 2.0% of decanedioic acid.
- 6.. The contact lens solution of claim 1 further comprising a wetting agent selected from the group consisting of polysorbate surfactants, polyoxyethylene surfactants, phosphonates, saponins and polyethoxylated castor oils.
7. The contact lens solution of claim 1 further comprising a sequestering agent selected from the group consisting as ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, phosphonates, citrate, gluconate and tartarate.



## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/46344

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61K 33/34

US CL : 514/635, 912

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 514/635, 912

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
NONEElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
WEST

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,139,646 A (ASGHARIAN et al.) 31 October 2000, see the entire document.	1-7



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"Z" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

06 MARCH 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

16 APR 2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Valerie Bell-Harris for  
ZOHREH FAY

Telephone No. (703) 308-1235